

REMARKS:

The claims in the application are 1-3, 5-11, 13, 14 and Claims 15 and 16 added by the present amendment.

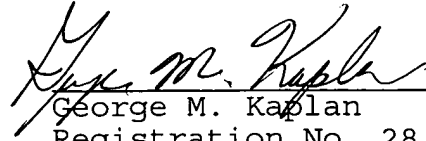
Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Independent Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to change the open "contains" language to - consisting essentially of -, in accordance with the observation in footnote 3 on page 10 of the Decision on Appeal. Claims 7 and 13 have each been amended into independent form and to recite specific formula for both non-oligomeric and oligomeric phosphate flame retardants (a) and (b). Concerning the observation on page 12 of the Decision on Appeal on excluding phosphonate linkages from the claimed composition, it should now be clear these particular claims exclude presence of such phosphonate linkages.

Finally, concerning the observation on page 15 of the Decision on Appeal on showing unexpected results, attention is respectfully called to the demonstrative evidence documented in the Examples found on pages 8-17 of the present application. Claims 15 and 16 introduced herein are directed to the specific blends of flame retardants examined in this testing.

Early favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "George M. Kaplan", is written over a horizontal line.

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